

HOUSE BILL 638

By White M

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,  
Chapter 8, relative to instant runoff voting.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 8, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "instant runoff voting" means a method of voting that allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference conducted as follows:

(1) Any candidate receiving a majority of the first preferences for that office wins the election;

(2) If no such candidate exists, an instant runoff tabulation must be conducted in rounds;

(3) In each round, each ballot counts as a single vote for whichever non-eliminated candidate is ranked highest;

(4) After each round, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, with the votes for that candidate redistributed to the remaining non-eliminated candidates based on the order of preferences indicated on each of the affected ballots; and

(5) If the redistribution of votes results in a candidate receiving a majority of the votes, that candidate is elected, otherwise, the candidate then having the fewest votes is eliminated, and the votes are redistributed as before, with the process of candidate elimination and vote redistribution continuing until one candidate has a majority of the votes counted for any candidate in that round.

(b) A county or municipality shall not use instant runoff voting for the purpose of conducting any primary, general, or special election.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.